

11-06-1984, p. 6 [SRP file copy]

11-07-1984  
Eekdale

DWP—

The "J.W. Powell" that you located in the "1881 Weeksbare, Scranton Statistical and Trade Review" on 03-10-1980 clearly must be the father of Silas Powell. At the time, you suggested that "J.W. Powell" was John Powell's father. I believe he is Silas's father. At one time, "J" and "I" were both set in type as "I", so the "J.W. Powell" could easily be "J.W. Powell." In 1964, Silas Powell said that "He was born in Plymouth, where his father [John W. Powell] operated a grocery store, and moved to this city [Scranton] with the large family at the age of 10 [1891]..." From 1879 on, the "J.W. Powell" that you discovered was in the grocery <sup>and provision</sup> business in Plymouth. It is my belief that in 1891, when Silas was 10, that "J.W. Powell" having operated a successful grocery business <sup>in Plymouth</sup> for 12 years, moved his family and business to Scranton. The "J.W. Powell" that you discovered is exactly the correct age to be the father of Silas Powell and his 13 siblings. "J.W. Powell" was born in 1841. His oldest child, Sarah Jane (Powell) Price, was born in 1868. That would have made "J.W. Powell" 27 when his first child was born.

I am having a grand time making addition/revision to Preparatory Notes..., which was published six years ago. A great deal has been learned in those six years and all of it must be incorporated into the 1978 volume/edition. On days when I don't teach -- yesterday and today, for example -- I spend most of the day at my desk making addition/revision to PN...I-1978. Hundreds (possibly thousands) of addition/revision have already been made. In order to make those changes, I have un-bound my copy

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of PN-I-1978. No revised edition of that volume will not, I think, be published in hard cover. Rather, the revised edition will be published on microfilm. A Xerox copy of my original would, of course, be nice. Would it be possible, do you think, to make, over a long period of time, a copy on your machine? -- ten or 20 pages at a time over a period of several months. If such an arrangement would be awkward, please say so, as I do understand the realities that one has to live with.

I am probably the only person in the United States who doesn't know yet the results of yesterday's general election. I have been very much out of circulation for the past two days. Later today I will go into town and find out who was elected president.

What about Thanksgiving? Are you staying put or are you traveling? HLR is trying to arrange a dinner at Reber's restaurant in Narrowsburg. Possibly she doesn't feel like going to all the fuss and bother to organize a major family gathering. Possibly it's because of RTP's health -- he fell about two weeks ago and hurt his back & now has bad headaches again. His physicians have concluded that the backaches are caused by the fall and not by tumor growth. A recent CAT scan showed no new growth, which is good news. RTP is again in the hospital -- they're working on the back problem.

Very cool outside today. Very comfortable inside, I'm happy to report. What a wonderful adventure it is living here. At last, at long last, I have re-discovered the season. Listen... what was that? Listen carefully... it's "the song of the earth." Regards -- S. Robert